

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 1, 2, 4-12, and 14-20 are pending in the application and the Examiner rejected all claims.

Claim Rejections, 35 U.S.C. §102

In item 4 on pages 2-4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4-12, and 14-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,734,883 to Wynn et al. ("Wynn").

The Present Invention

The present invention provides a method and system for providing user assistance in connection with use of a computer program. The present invention displays a navigation bar comprising a "decision tree" or both past and future options for use of the program, with those that are currently selectable options being displayed in a manner different from those that are currently unselectable options. This, in itself, gives a user the ability to not only see what options are available at the moment, but also what other options might become available at another time. These options are referred to as "selectable steps" since at some point they will be selectable and they are all interrelated in the sense that they are part of the same computer program and thus may be used to operate the computer program.

In addition to showing all of the potentially selectable options in this decision tree, selectable options associated with the currently selected step, as well as input options and/or information of interest, is displayed in a client work area adjacent to the navigator bar.

Using the present invention, the user has not only a view of where the user has been (e.g., a series of previously accessed web pages; a series of previously performed computer operations) and where the current branch of the tree in which they are operating can proceed (e.g., the web addresses that have been accessed and then backed-out of or program steps which have been performed but then have been backed-out of), but also has the ability to quickly view all of the tree branches and, if desired, see where those tree branches may go before actually traveling down one of the branches.

U.S. Patent No. 6,734,883 to Wynn et al.

U.S. Patent No. 6,734,883 to Wynn et al. ("Wynn") teaches a "spin list" graphical user interface control with preview and post-view capability. Wynn teaches a user interface control that provides a list of possible selections along a single leg of a tree, with a currently selected item highlighted. A mechanism is provided to expand the view of the list and rapidly move through the list. Using the spin lists of Wynn et al., a user may quickly navigate through previous choices or upcoming choices along the current "tree branch" being followed. It is directed to accessing lists, not to viewing processes.

The Cited Prior Art Does Not Anticipate the Claimed Invention

The MPEP and case law provide the following definition of anticipation for the purposes of 35 U.S.C. §102:

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference."

MPEP §2131 citing *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Company of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

Wynn is simply a user interface control that allows the display of a list of possible selections with the currently selected item displayed. Using the spin list of Wynn, the user can expand the view of the list and rapidly move through the list. In other words, Wynn merely gives a user a faster way of scrolling through a list of URLs that have been accessed in both the forward and backward direction. Nothing in Wynn teaches a navigator bar that displays multiple selectable steps, each of which forms a different branch of a decision tree, and a client work area displaying information pertaining to the currently selected step, including the various choices that will be available with respect to the currently selected step. Applicant acknowledges that Wynn does provide a more efficient and quick way to utilize a GUI to access historical addresses already accessed. However, nothing in Wynn teaches the ability to step outside the particular branch of the decision tree that has been accessed.

Elements not taught by Wynn are specifically claimed in each of the independent claims, e.g., claim 1 - (...a client work area displaying information pertaining to the currently-selected step; and a navigator bar adjacent to said client work area, said navigator bar continuously displaying a visual representation of said selectable steps, said visual representation including a display of steps that are active and steps that are inactive.); claim 11 - (...generating a client work area in which information pertaining to the currently-selected step is displayed; and generating a navigator bar adjacent to said client work area, said navigator bar continuously displaying a visual representation of said selectable steps, said visual representation including a display of steps that

are active and steps that are inactive.). Without such a teaching, rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102 based on Wynn is inappropriate.

The remaining claims add additional elements which, in combination with the independent claims, are not taught by Wynn. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

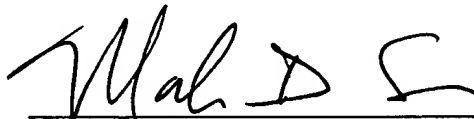
Although Wynn also does not suggest the claimed invention, a rejection based on 35 U.S.C. §103 would be precluded under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c).

Conclusion

The present invention is not taught or suggested by the prior art. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the claims. An early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 09-0461.

Respectfully submitted

August 17, 2004
Date



Mark D. Simpson, Esquire
Registration No. 32,942

SYNNESTVEDT & LECHNER LLP
2600 ARAMARK Tower
1101 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Telephone: (215) 923-4466
Facsimile: (215) 923-2189